

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
AID-05 /068 W
-----140917Z 031548 /12
P 140850Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2115

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1268

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: KS, PINT
SUBJECT: DRP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN ARRESTED ON BRIBERY CHARGES

SUMMARY: DRP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN HONG PYONG CHOL'S ARREST THIS PAST WEEK ON BRIBERY CHARGES APPEARS STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH NO POLITICAL OVERTONES. HE WAS ALLEGEDLY CAUGHT HAVING ACCEPTED MONEYS FROM FERTILIZER IMPORT AGENT WHO WAS ARRESTED LAST DECEMBER ON CORRUPTION CHARGES. HONG APPARENTLY WAS CONSIDERED POLITICALLY EXPENDABLE, ALTHOUGH IT IS ANOTHER WARNING TO ASSEMBLYMENT THEY ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM ARREST FOR IMPROPRIETY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEBRUARY 11, SEOUL DISTRICT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ARRESTED DRP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN FROM CHEJU, HONG PYONG-CHOL, ON CHARGES THAT HE RECEIVED BRIBES FROM FERTILIZER IMPORT AGENT PAIK SUNG-PIN. PAIK HIMSELF WAS ARRESTED IN LATE DECEMBER FOR HAVING DIVERTED AN ESTIMATED 8.8 MILLION DOLLARS OVERSEAS BY MANIPULATING IMPORT PRICES ON FERTILIZER. AT THIS POINT NO U.S. INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HONG ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED 50 MILLION WON FROM PAIK WHEN HONG WAS SERVING ON AGRI-
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CULTURE-FISHERIES COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN RETURN FOR ARRANGING "OFFICIAL FAVORS" FOR PAIK IN HIS BUSINESS. THESE FAVORS APPARENTLY WERE PERSUADING FORMER CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES FEDERATION (NACF) CHAIRMAN KIM YOW-HWAN AND FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES CHONG SO-YONG TO SELECT PAIK AS SOLE FERTILIZER IMPORT AGENT FOR NCAF. KIM LOST HIS JOB IN

DECEMBER OVER SCANDAL.

3. HONG HAS MAINTAINED HE WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH THIS SCANDAL AND ONLY RECEIVED 20 MILLION WON FROM PAIK "WITHOUT STRINGS BECAUSE PAIK WAS GOOD FRIEND." PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SAID ARREST WAS MADE AFTER INVESTIGATORS CONFIRMED THAT 50 MILLION WON HAD BEEN DEPOSITED AT BANK IN NAME OF HONG'S WIFE.

4. HONG, WHO IS EXPECTED TO RESIGN FROM ASSEMBLY SHORTLY, IS CONSIDERED BY POLITICAL OBSERVERS TO BE A NONENTITY. ALTHOUGH FORMER ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND ONCE A MEMBER OF BLUE HOUSE PROTECTIVE FORCE, WHAT LITTLE POWER HONG HAS COMES FROM CHEJU WHERE HE ONCE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF DISTRICT DRP CHAPTER. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT HE WAS FOUND WITH HIS HAND IN TILL AND WAS CONSIDERED EXPENDABLE. PRESIDENT PAK GAVE WARNING IN SUMMER OF 1976 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT CORRUPTION DISCOVERED AMONG ASSEMBLYMEN, INCLUDING DRP, WOULD BE DEALT WITH HARSHLY, AND THIS MOVE HELPS CONFIRM PRESIDENT'S INTENTIONS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL01268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770051-0854
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770244/aaaabmsq.tel
Line Count: 83
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2357cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3327089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN ARRESTED ON BRIBERY CHARGES SUMMARY: DRP NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN HONG PYONG CHOL'S ARREST THIS PAST WEEK ON BRIBERY CHARGES AP PEARS STRAIGHT
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To: STATE
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